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Tennessee River Missionary Baptist Association

v. 1. 1890

v. 2. 1891

v. 3. 1892

v. 4. 1893

v. 5. 1895

v. 6. 1897

v. 7. 1898

v. 8: 1899

v. 9: 1900

MINUTES

OF THE

FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

TENNESSEE RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

Harmony Church, Sept. 29th, 30th, Oct. 1st, 2d, 1899.

The next session of the Association will be held with the Baptist Church, Mount Ararat, near Limrock, Jackson County, Alabama, commencing on Friday after the Fourth Sunday in September, 1900, at Eleven o'clock a. m.

OFFICERS:

PRESTON BROWN, MODERATOR.....Hollywood, Ala.
JNO. T. RICHARDS, CLERK.....Pisgah, Ala.
MILTON ROACH, TREASURER.....Fackler, Ala.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

P. Brown, Jno. T. Richards, John H. Roach, R. Howell, W. L. Crawford, Milton Roach, J. R. Lamb, Mike Hill, J. J. Cunningham, C. Howell, Alex Sisk, J. H. Fuller, Jos. Smalley, W. B. Campbell.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES.

Brown P., Hollywood, Ala.
Bain G. W., Fabius, Ala.
Crawford W. L., Tupelo, Ala.
Collins D. S., Carns, Ala.
Caves Thomas, Fabius, Ala.
Eaves J. A., Hollytree, Ala.
Hill M., Scottsboro, Ala.
Howell Crawford, Francisco, Ala.
Howell R., Fackler, Ala.
Higginbotham R. M., Mud Creek, Ala,
Hastings S. M., Larkinsville, Ala.
Irvin L. B., Henegar, Ala.
Lamb J. R., Nila, Ala.
Morris G. W., Kirbys Creek, Ala.
McCloud James, Pisgah, Ala.
McCarrell J. F., Hollywood, Ala.
Postell T. K.
Richards Jno. T., Pisgah, Ala.
Roach C. T., Pisgah, Ala.
Starkey C. T., Scottsboro, Ala.
Sloan L. W., Gurley, Ala.
Sisk Alexander, Francisco, Ala.
Varnell W. H., Hollywood, Ala.

PROGRAM.

FRIDAY, FIRST DAY.

Introductory Sermon at 11 o'clock a. m., by J. R. Lamb, with R. Howell alternate.

ORGANIZATION.

1. Reading of letters and enrollment of delegates.
2. Election of officers.
3. Reception of new churches.
4. Inviting correspondents and visitors of same faith to seats.
5. Appointment of special committees:
6. (1.) Religious services.
7. (2.) Obituaries.
8. (3.) Finance.

SATURDAY, SECOND DAY.

9. Appoint new executive board.
10. Appoint standing committees.
11. Select place of next meeting of Association.
12. Select brother to preach annual sermon, and his alternate.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

13. Associational work.
14. State mission.
15. Home mission.
16. Foreign mission.
17. Ministerial and denominational education.

SUNDAY, THIRD DAY.

18. Woman's work.
19. Sunday school work.
20. Religious literature.
21. Temperance.

MONDAY, FOURTH DAY.

22. Report of executive board.
23. Miscellaneous business.
24. Resolutions.
25. Adjournment.

INTRODUCTORY.

Mud Creek, Ala., September 29, 1899.

The Tennessee River Baptist Association held its Forty-Second Annual Session with the Harmony Baptist Church, near Mud Creek, in Jackson County, Alabama, September 29th, 30th and October 1st, 2nd, 1899. The introductory services of the Association were opened by singing "Jesus lover of my soul."

Brother J. M. McCord, who was elected to preach the introductory sermon, not being present, Brother J. A. Eaves, the alternate, preached. The Association opened promptly at 11 a. m. The brother read thirty-one verses from the 25th chapter of St. Matthew. At the conclusion of the reading the Association was led in prayer by Rev. A. Sisk.

Song "There is a fountain filled with blood." The brother selected as his text the 12th verse of the 25th chapter of St. Matthew, "But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not."

The sermon was good and well received. An earnest effort for broadening the work and for faithful discharge of duties resting upon us as a body of believers in the Lord, a feast of good things.

At the conclusion of the sermon the congregation sang, led by Brother D. S. Collins, "How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord." Prayer by Brother J. T. Lightfoot, of Ocoee Association, Tennessee. Recess for ten minutes.

PROCEEDINGS.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

1. The Association was called together by singing "What a friend we have in Jesus."

2. Called to order by the Moderator, P. Brown, who read the 16th Psalm and led the Association in prayer. Song, "Leaning on the arms of Jesus."

3. The Moderator, after a few appropriate remarks, appointed Brothers W. L. Crawford and Robert Butler to read the church letters, after which letters from the churches were called for and read, and the names of delegates enrolled as follows:

1. Bridgeport—Not represented.
2. Bethel—James Inglis, James Matthews, A. McCarver, M N. Hammons, R. N. Garner.
3. Beech Grove—Letter, no delegate.
4. Bethany—Frank Maynor, W. W. Christy, J. S. Kirkindall.
5. Centennial—B. F. Alverson. P. A. Carlisle, W. M. Chandler.
6. Cave Spring—Isaac Matthews, James L. Sentell.
7. Center Point—J. A. Dicus, J. M. McLendon, Jason Dicus.
8. Ebenezer—J. D. Griffin, Thomas Smith.
9. Freedom—L. M. Prince, R. L. Butler, Willie Hall.
10. Friendship—A. P. Womack, D. L. Rorex, Milton Roach.
11. Gurley—W. H. Williamson.
12. Goose Pond—Wm. Myers, Floyd Mills.
13. Hollywood—G. P. Bouldin, W. D. Darwin.
14. Harmony—J. E Campbell, John G. Sanders.
15. Larkinsville—Herod Pulham, A. W. Woosley.
16. Mt. Nebo—J. J. Cunningham, R. C. Horton, J. P. Cunningham.——

17. Mt. Zion—Irvy Weatherly.
18. Mt. Pisgah—Joseph Smalley.
19. Mt. Carmel—G. G. Owens, F. M. Williams.
20. Mt. Moriah—A. B. Womack, T. C. Howell, J. A. Crow.
21. Mt. Ararat—W. P. Culver.
22. Mt. Tabor—J. H. Fuller.
23. Mountain Grove—Not represented.
24. McCoy's Grove—Not represented.
25. New Hope—Eli Vinton, J. F. Bell.
26. Pleasant View—Not represented.
27. Scottsboro—
28. Ship of Zion—Not represented.
29. Trenton—Paul Horton.

Total number of delegates at roll call before adjournment, with what had been excused, 48; ministerial delegates, 16; total, 65.

The churches were generally well represented. Most of the delegates appointed by their churches were present during the session, but left before roll call at adjournment on Monday. At the last annual session of the Association held with the Beech Grove church, 1898, a resolution was passed that all delegates, ministers, as well as laymen, leaving the Association before its adjournment without leave, the names of such delegates shall be dropped from the roll and not appear in the minutes. Quite a number of delegates who were present during most of the session were absent on Monday at roll call before adjournment, hence their names do not appear in the minutes.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

MODERATOR, CLERK AND TREASURER.

On motion the officers were elected by ballot, as follows: Preston Brown, Moderator; John T. Richards, Clerk; Milton Roach, Treasurer After a few remarks by the Moderator and Clerk, thanking the Association for confidence reposed and honor conferred, the Moderator appointed W. L. Crawford Assistant Moderator.

The Moderator offered an opportunity for applications for membership to churches organized since last Association. Mt. Carmel and Bethany churches, organized since last Association, applied for membership; also Ebenezer church, which had been dropped from the roll, applied for membership. The reports being favorable, on motion, the churches were received, names of the messengers enrolled, Moderator extending the right hand of fellowship.

Invitation was then made to correspondents and visitors from other bodies of the same faith and order, when Rev. J. T. Lightfoot, from Ocoee Association, Tennessee, responded, the Moderator extending the right hand of fellowship, inviting the brother to a seat. A letter was read by Brother W. L. Crawford from Macedonia church asking for a letter of dismissal from this Association to join Sequachee Valley Association, Tennessee. As the church had not been represented for six or seven years and being dropped from the roll, on motion, the church was reinstated into full fellowship, after which, on motion, the church was granted a letter of dismissal from this Association.

On motion, the Moderator appointed the following committee on religious exercises: Rev. R. Howell, pastor, and the deacons of Harmony church. While the committee on religious services were consulting, on motion, the appointment of the other special committees was deferred until Saturday morning. The committee on religious services reported that Rev A. Sisk would preach tonight at this church (Harmony), followed by Rev. T. Caves, Rev. T. K. Postell, at Bethel, and Rev. J. T. Lightfoot tomorrow (Saturday) at 11 a. m.

On motion, the Association at 3:30 p. m. adjourned to 9 o'clock a. m. Saturday morning. Prayer by M. Hill, benediction by the Moderator.

SECOND DAY, SATURDAY, SEPT. 30, 1899.

MORNING SESSION.

Association met pursuant to adjournment. The association sang "What a friend we have in Jesus," led by D. S. Collins. The Moderator, after calling the body to order, read the 34th division of the Psalms. Prayer led by Brother T. K. Postell.

The Moderator announced the appointment of the following special committees:

Finance—S. R. Corn and R. C. Horton.

Obituaries—M. Hill and C. Howell.

At this point the Moderator called for reports from any delegates who were not present on yesterday or the reading of any letters from churches that had not been read. A letter from Scottsboro church was read by R. L. Butler; also a letter from Hollywood church by W. L. Crawford, and delegates enrolled.

On motion, the selection of place and time for holding next Association and the correct enrollment of delegates was postponed until the afternoon session. The Moderator then read the names of the standing committees, requesting them to have their reports ready, if not ready, as soon as possible.

The Moderator then proceeded to call for reports from the standing committees. The standing committees and members of the executive board asked leave to retire to make out their reports, which was granted.

The report on State Missions being next in order was called for, the committee not being present, it was passed.

The next in order was the report on Home Missions. The report not being ready, the program was changed and the report on religious literature being ready, was called for and read by A. Sisk, chairman, as follows:

RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

We your committee on religious literature beg leave to submit the following report:

Religious periodicals cover so vast a field, embracing everything that is corrupt, misleading, and soul destroying, that we suggest a careful discrimination in the selection of our literature. It is not enough that our homes be furnished with books, papers and magazines, which have merely a religious covering but rather we should seek to supply them with books and literature, the contents of which are in strict harmony and accord with the teaching of God's Word. Let us not content ourself with the careless inquiry regarding the periodicals that come into our possession, and into our homes, are they religious; but rather do they teach the truth? An error clothed in religious garb is more dangerous than an error in profanity. We suggest that our

Baptist people who desire to be intelligent Baptists, provide themselves with Baptist literature. Baptist periodicals, published by Baptist publication societies, that we may be ready to give an answer to every one that asketh, a reason for the hope that is in us. If we would be loyal, as well as intelligent Baptists, then let us foster those publication societies, that are especially near to us, that are ours by adoption—our Southern Baptist Convention Sunday School periodicals, our Missionary magazines, and last but by no means least, the Alabama Baptist.

Respectfully submitted.

A. SISK, Chairman.

The report was discussed by A. Sisk, C. Howell, A. P. Womack, J. H. Fuller and J. T. Lightfoot. On motion the regular order of business was suspended in order that a preamble and resolution relative to the subject under discussion might be read. Resolution read by the Moderator, after which, on motion, the report was adopted. At this point in the regular order of business a letter from the church at Gurley was received and read by R. L. Butler and delegates enrolled. The Moderator then proceeded to call for the reports of standing committees.

REPORT ON WOMAN'S WORK.

Report on Woman's Work was read by J. A. Eaves, as follows:

We, your committee appointed on Woman's Work, beg leave to submit the following:

This is a work that is comparatively new to most of us, though our ladies are doing a great work in their different societies, to wit, the Ladies' Aid Societies. They aid largely in providing for the support of the Orphan's Home and in the Home and Foreign missions. Indeed if their contributions were cut off from the general fund it would be greatly diminished. We recommend the ladies' work find a place and be encouraged in our Association. Their contribution for the last year at the Southern Convention was a considerable amount. We, your committee, recommend that in the future you encourage the work done by our ladies, giving them all the aid that we can.

Respectfully submitted.

J. A. EAVES,
J. J. CUNNINGHAM.

The report was discussed by J. A. Eaves and W. L. Crawford. Pending the discussion a motion prevailed that the report be recommitted and that the Moderator add one or two brethren to the committee to aid in giving the Association an insight to what is the object or purpose of this work. The Moderator appointed Brethren J. R. Lamb and Virgil Bouldin. Reports of standing committees still being in order the Moderator called for the report on Home Missions.

REPORT ON HOME MISSION.

The report was read by W. L. Crawford, chairman, as follows:

The work of Home Missions is a work of vital importance to American Baptists. Including as it does the North American Indians and Southern Negroes and the Island of Cuba, and to some extent the settlements of foreigners that have come to our shores; therefore we ought, as a co-operative body, to contribute largely of our means to the Home Mission Board of the Southern Convention, through whom we carry on this great work. In this report it is not our purpose to give the history of Home Missions, but we refer the reader to the Home Mission Journal for all needed information in regard to the work. As a co-operative body it is our duty under God to support the work. For this purpose are associations formed. If we do not carry on our co-operative benevolent work then there is not a shadow of excuse for our existence; therefore let us obey Christ and carry on His work to which He has called us.

W. L. CRAWFORD,
P. BROWN.

Report was discussed by W. L. Crawford, J. T. Lightfoot, Thomas Caves, M. Hill and A. P. Womack, and adopted.

The hour for preaching having arrived, on motion, the Association adjourned for preaching. The sermon was preached by Rev. J. T. Lightfoot, of Ocoee Association, Tennessee. His sermon was a masterpiece, delivered in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, which was well received by the large congregation

After a few minutes recess the Association was called together by singing "The half has never yet been told."

AFTERNOON SESSION.

After a few remarks by the Moderator he called the Association to order, and in behalf of the committee on Religious Services announced that A. Sisk would preach at the M. E. church tonight, C. Howell at this church tonight, and Thomas Caves at Mt. Moriah tonight. After which the Association resumed the order of business.

The Moderator called for the report of the committee on Woman's Work. The report being ready was read by R. L. Butler, as follows:

AMENDED REPORT ON WOMAN'S WORK.

We, your committee to which the report on Woman's Work was recommitted, report as follows:

An examination of the church letters reveals no report of Woman's Work in this Association except Scottsboro church, in which the Ladies' Aid Society is shown to have made the following contributions:

To the Orphanage, cash	$17 50
" " " box clothing and sheets	8 25
Howard College debt, cash	10 00
Cash on hand	3 60
Total	$39 35

These items show the ends to which the work is directed. Woman's Societies are as their name imports, "Aid Societies," and their work is an inestimable aid to every good work in the church. It is the opinion of the committee that all that is needed in this matter is, first, that the church shall undertake some work to be aided, and that the good sisters of our churches be given an opportunity to aid it. The thing needed is to arouse the church in all lines of work, and this done the pastor can easily organize Ladies' Aid Societies to supplement every good work. The Alabama Baptist Orphanage is one of the especial objects of woman's work, and no nobler can well be desired.

Information as to the things needed for the Orphanage, as well as those entitled to admittance, can be obtained at any time from the Alabama Baptist. Your committee would report that the first duty of the hour is to awaken the churches to activity in the Master's cause, and Woman's Work will prove itself an auxiliary at all times. We recommend,

First, That the Moderator of this Association appoint a devout sister as superintendent of Woman's Work throughout the Association, to advise with and encourage the sisters of the several churches relating to the work.

Second, That every pastor be requested to encourage and effect the organization of a Ladies' Aid Society in their churches.

Respectfully submitted.

J. A. EAVES, Chairman.

The report was discussed by T. K. Postell, Virgil Bouldin, John Roach and others. On motion, the report was adopted as amended.

On motion, Rev. J. A. Eaves was granted leave of absence. Reports of standing committees still being in order, the Moderator called for the report on Foreign Missions.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The Report being ready, was read by John Roach, as follows:

Brother Moderator and Brethren: Your committee beg to report that our work on the foreign fields has been a success, cheering reports come to us from every field to which our workers have gone. It would be a difficult question to decide between the fields of labor, which have been most successful, taking into account the many nationalities and kinds of people and the different states of civilization in which the workers find the people. God has wonderfully blessed the labors of our missionaries, and we have every reason to rejoice in the manifestations of His power and his willingness to bless His preached word. And it is true that civilization and commerce and education follow the missionary in every heathen land to which he or she may go, and an uplifting influence is readily seen in Papal fields, for education, and the proper regard for life and property without which no nation can be said to be civilized, which the preaching of the simple and pure gospel of Christ insures. We would urge the

ministering bretheren to make an effort, a strong effort. There are thirty odd churches in this Association and only four or five are doing anything for missions. Make a beginning, start somewhere: with associational, Home or Foreign Missions. We believe it is the pastor's duty to lead the church up to this work. Some churches may be easily led to contribute to Associational Mission work, and then Home and Foreign.

We are at the threshold of the twentieth century and doing comparatively nothing, have a name that we live and are dead. Brethren, called of God, this is your life work, the field is the world, and the field is the place to labor, not to rest and loiter. The Southern Baptist Convention has ordered a 25 per cent. increase, and Alabama's part is $8,000 in that increase. What will the Tennessee River Association do? There are four hundred missionaries in the field and there were 68,000 baptisms last year. Brethren, this is a grand showing for the money expended.

Respectfuly submitted.

JOHN ROACH, Chairman.

The report was discussed by Brethren John Roach, T. K. Postell and J. T. Lightfoot, after which the report was adopted.

On motion, the Rev. J. T. Lightfoot was selected to preach tomorrow (Sunday) at 11 o'clock a. m., and on motion, was requested to preach a missionary sermon.

By motion adopted at the morning session, the selection of place and time of holding our next annual session and the brother to preach the introductory sermon which had been postponed until the afternoon session was by motion taken up, place and time selected. Mt. Ararat, Bethel and New Hope churches had each asked, by letter, that the next annual session of the Association be held with their church. After a short discussion as to the place of next meeting, Mt. Ararat was selected by acclamation, and the first Friday after the fourth Sunday in September, 1900, as the time, at 11 o'clock a. m. On motion, Rev. J. R. Lamb was selected to preach the introductory sermon at the next annual meeting of the Association, with Rev. R. Howell, alternate.

On motion, the Association adjourned until 9 o'clock tomorrow morning. Prayer by Thomas Caves, benediction by the Moderator.

THIRD DAY, SUNDAY, OCT. 1, 1899.

MORNING SESSION.

Association met according to adjournment. After the reading of an appropriate Psalm by the Moderator, a song and a prayer, led by Rev. D. S. Collins, the Association proceeded with the business before it.

On motion, the roll call of delegates was postponed for the present. The reports of standing committees being in order, the Moderator called for the report on Temperance. The report being ready was read by John Roach, as follows:

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your committee on Temperance would say:

That of all the agencies for evil in this world, intemperance stands pre-eminently first. It has caused more suffering, blighted more homes and caused more deaths than any destructive agency on earth, not exempting war itself. Your committee would call attention to the magnitude of the whisky traffic. There are between 240,000 and 250,000 saloons in the United States, and they employ 1,200,000 men to retail from these saloons that which can destroy all that is noble and beautiful in men, saying nothing of the stupenduous army of men engaged in making and wholesaling intoxicating liquors. The saloons in New York City alone, if placed side by side, would extend in an unbroken front for seventy-odd miles. Sixty thousand men are destroyed annually by this gigantic evil. Carroll Wright, after extended observation and careful investigation, declared that the use of intoxicants, as a beverage, is the mother of 90 per cent of all crime.

The above statement being true, it behooves us, brethren as churches and as individuals to teach, talk and live temperance, that the young of our land may grow up to be further from the use of intoxicants than proceeding generations. Let us remember that its awful consequences do not end with mortal life, but that God has said no drunkard shall inherit His kingdom. Therefore we would recommend to the churches strict discipline

with regard to offenders in the use of intoxicating drinks. We further recommend to our young men temperance in all things essential and in non-essentials total abstinence.

Respectfully submitted,

MILTON ROACH, Chairman.

The subject was discussed by J. H. Fuller, M. Hill, J. T. Lightfoot, T. K. Postell and D. S. Collins.

Pending the discussion, the hour for preaching having arrived, on motion the further discussion of the subject was postponed until after preaching. As the church would not accommodate the large congregation, services were held in the old house, conducted by Rev. T. K. Postell, as per appointment. Services were conducted in the new house by Rev. J. T. Lightfoot, of Ocoee Association, Tennessee, as per appointment. The congregation sang, "There is a fountain filled with blood." The brother selected as his text the three first verses of the 7th chapter of Revelation:

1. "And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor the sea, nor on any tree.

2. "And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea.

3. "Saying, hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads."

The sermon was an earnest effort and we hope that the seed sown fell on good ground and will yet bring forth much good fruit. At the close of the sermon the Moderator appointed brothers R. L. Butler, R. C. Horton, J. H. Varnell and W. Roach to wait on the congregation for a free will offering for mission work. Amount collected, according to treasurer's report, $37.46. The singing was led by D. S. Collins, who sang such inspiring songs as "What can wash away my sins?" "At the Cross," "I want to be a worker for the Lord," after which the Association took recess for a few minutes.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Association called together by singing—called to order by the Moderator.

On motion Brother F. J. Miller, on account of sickness, was granted leave of absence; also were brother Joseph Smelley and Rev. W. H. Varnell. The question of temperance being still before the Association, the report was called for and re-read. The discussion was continued by Brethren M. Roach, A. P. Womack, W. L. Crawford, John Roach, Virgil Bouldin, G. W. Morris and Wm. Hall, and after a few remarks by the Moderator was, on motion, adopted.

On motion the Association adjourned at 4:30 p. m., until 8:30 a. m., with prayer by G. W. Morris.

FOURTH DAY, MONDAY, OCT. 2, 1899.

MORNING SESSION.

The Association met persuant to adjournment Called to order by the Moderator, sang "Jesus lover of my soul," prayer by Rev. D. S. Collins. The report of standing committees still being in order, the report on Orphanage was read by Milton Roach, as follows:

REPORT ON ORPHANAGE.

We, your committee on Orphanage, would earnestly urge the importance, the necessity of this enterprise of our denomination. It is located at Evergreen, under the control of a board of trustees appointed by the Alabama Baptist State Convention, wholly dependent upon the churches and individuals for its support.

Since the home was established they have received 45 boys and 56 girls, total 101, from 22 counties. The latest statistics at hand claim there have gone from the Home 42, by apprenticeship, adoption, returned to their people and deaths, leaving in the home 22 boys and 37 girls, a total of 59. The average num-

ber for the past year has been 50 children, and the average cost $5.24 per month, which will compare favorably with any similar institution in the United States. This should be enough for us to know that there are a number of helpless orphan children clothed and fed and being trained for usefulness in this life, and, better still, they are placed under the influence of godly men and women who are faithful to their spiritual interests. They are faithfully cared for, kept clean, well fed, taught proper habits, loved and made happy. They are required to attend Sunday school and church, and religious services are regularly held in the Home. They are dealing with character, they are sowing seed, they are trying to undermine the dangerous classes, they are turning the rivulets of human possibilities into the river of life. Now, brethren, especially brother pastors, will you not see that we have in all our churches a Ladies' Aid Society or some other organization, that this institution may not be forgotten by us but regularly contributed to? We need the co-operation of men and women, boys and girls, the contributions of rich and poor, remembering that "he that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord." Respectfully submitted.

W. B. Campbell, Chairman.

The report was discussed by Milton Roach and others and adopted.

DENOMINATIONAL AND MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

The report was read by J. R. Lamb, as follows:

We, your committee on Denominational and Ministerial Education, beg leave to submit the following report:

1. That there never has been a time when we have felt more keenly the need of both an educated ministry and membership in our churches. An education enables the members to drink more deeply of Divine truth and prepares the ministry to deal out more deftly the power of that truth.

2. We rejoice to say that there has never been a time when an education could be obtained so easily as now. Godly men all over the land are consecrating their lives to the work of teaching. Good schools under the control of the denomination are being established in several parts of the country.

3. We feel that every Baptist parent should see that his children receive at least a good English education, and should patronize denominational institutions.

4. The need of a higher education of the ministry of this Association is apparent. We would recommend a close study of God's word and a larger reading along denominational lines.

5. As to institutions of higher education for young men and preachers, we recommend Howard College, East Lake, Ala., for young women, Judson Institute, Marion, Ala.

Respectfully submitted.

W. H. VARNELL, Chairman.

On motion, adopted without discussion.

The report on Sunday Schools was called for by the Moderator and read by Jno. T. Richards, as follows:

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Your committee on Sunday School submit the following:

The Sunday School is in the front rank of the spiritual forces of the age. The growth of the Sunday School institution has been marvelous. Think of its magnitude today, and a generation ago; think of its efficiency today and a generation ago. Then faulty in help and equipment generally; today, while much remains to be done, the Sunday School may be said to have partaken of the general progress of the age. Try to grasp its development from a single school to the world's convention, and consider what lies between those extremes of organization. The Sunday School is not perfect yet, less perfect in teaching than in any other department. They are not like public school teachers, all of whom must be certificated as to qualifications before they are permitted to teach. We are not prepared to require this in our Sunday School work; we must aim at a higher standard, but always gratefully accept a large class gifted with consecrated, common sense, who have the seal of Christ's approval upon their work. The work of God is supreme in the Sunday School. Let it ever be so.

The uniform lesson scheme has unified Sunday School teaching, and has respected denominational conviction. The unification is seen as to topic and text. The same central thought, the

same general outline and illustrations and the same golden text, surmount the whole lesson. Whether you enter a Baptist, Presbyterian or Methodist Sunday School, the same scripture is read and taught. At the same time, each lesson is prepared more or less from a denominational standpoint. Denominational convictions is not a trifling matter. Our entrance into Christian life was largely affected by this agency. We have been nurtured and taught, we have been fed and feasted on truth as conveyed to us through the channels of church life and fellowship. The uniform lesson system is as broad as Christianity, and it reaches our schools through modes of doctrinal exposition, which are most acceptable to us. Each denomination having its own lesson helps.

Your committee would advise our pastors, our superintendents and our teachers to secure the Sunday School literature published by the Southern Baptist Convention, at Nashville, Tenn., and the American Baptist Publication Society, of Philadelphia, Pa., which deserves the patronage of every church and Sunday School in the territory of this Association.

The statistics of the last World's Sunday School Convention, held in London last year, show in round numbers a total of 252,510 schools, 2,388,449 teachers, 23,049,009 scholars; a total of 25,437,458. Their distribution over the world presents some interesting facts, the United States having the largest number of schools and members of any nation in the world. The number reported for the United States is 138,180, with a membership of 12,911,315, being a reported gain during the last year of 5,483 schools and 623,162 members. Adding the members of the home department, 199,679, the total membership in the United States is 13,059,294, and the gain in number is 771,141. Greece has the smallest number, only reporting four schools, with a membership of 187 scholars.

There are in the United States 22,529 Baptist Sunday Schools, with an enrollment of officers, teachers and scholars of 1,801,053. There are in Alabama, among the white Baptists, 744 schools, with an enrollment of 39,827. There are in Alabama 1,739 white Baptist churches and only 744 Sunday Schools reported among them, leaving 995, or more than half, without one.

As compiled from the church letters to this meeting of the Association it appears that of the 26 churches making reports 11 have Sunday Schools, reporting 508 enrollment. Compared with

last year these reports show a gain of 291 enrolled members and 25 Sunday School scholars baptized into church fellowship. There are several churches not reporting any Sunday Schools, and others reporting that did not report fully on Sunday School work. It appears that if we properly appreciated the work and our obligations, there would be more in Sunday Schools than in church membership, for all members, who are able, ought to attend and bring their children and as many others as could be influenced to come.

In our State we have eleven Associations that do not report a single Sunday School, and fifteen others that report only four or less than four each. These things ought not so to be. To meet the destroying powers, to win and save the children, should arouse every energy of the church, and she must not despise new methods. Give these young people something of interest and benefit, something to wake up their faculties and engage their thoughts and at the same time aid and strengthen them in right living and Christian growth, and the problem how to keep the young men and women in the school would be solved. This can be done only by the careful and faithful study of the Word of God. God's spirit and truth are promised, and may God's spirit guide us in Christian love and truth.

Respectfully submitted.

JNO. T. RICHARDS, Chairman.

Report was discussed by Jno. T. Richards, John Roach, J. H. Fuller and T. K. Postell.

On motion, the discussions were limited to five minutes during the rest of the session. The hour for preaching having arrived, on motion. the services were dispensed with. The report of the Executive Committee was called for and read by W. L. Crawford, as follows:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Your committee submit the following:

For the Associational year 1898-99, we have employed Rev. Thos. K. Postell as general Missionary Evangelist. He preached for us 76 days, for which the Board has paid him $130. In Roach's Cove he baptized 17 into Fackler church: at Fackler, Hollywood, Shipp's School-house, Bridgeport and Mt. Carmel

witnessed the conversion and baptism of 35 more into the churches. He has labored faithfully and earnestly for Christ.

Rev. Mike Hill has labored 20 days in Box's Cove and at McCutchen's School-house, for which the Board paid $20.

Rev. D. S. Collins worked for the Board in Box's Cove and Wood's Cove 18 days, for which the Board paid $18.

Rev. Thos. Caves worked extensively at Shakerag, and together with Rev. G W. Morris, organized Bethany church. He was not employed by the Board, but we have paid him $5, of which Rev. Mike Hill contributed $3 especially for him, Rev. D. S. Collins contributing the other $2. God bless those brethren. Baptist preachers are the most liberal men on earth.

In all, our Board has worked in the missionary field 153 days, organized two churches and has been the means of many conversions and baptisms. Paid for all this work $173. Dear brethren, the field was never more promising, let us rise up and possess it for the Lord. Respectfully submitted.

W. L. CRAWFORD.

Report discussed by W. L. Crawford, P. Brown, R. Howell, M. Hill, T. K. Postell and John Roach, and on motion, adopted.

Report on Obituaries was called for by the Moderator and read by M. Hill, as follows:

REPORT ON OBITUARIES.

We, your committee on Obituaries, submit the following report, after making an examination of the church letters, of those who have fallen asleep:

Beech Grove, two, John Summers and Sarah P. Howell.
Bethel, one, Tennie Bryant.
Cave Spring, one, Emma Rash.
Freedom, three, John Hall, Polly Reed, Janie Robertson.
Gurley, three, Wm. Branum, J. W. Echols, Mary Styles.
Larkinsville, two, Chris. Holt, E. P. Cowart.
Mt. Nebo, two, W. J. B. Padgett, E. P. Cowett.
Mt. Zion, two, Lucretia Carter, Sarah Chisenhall.
Mt. Pisgah, one, Arzella Gillean.
Mt. Ararat, one, John Barclay.
New Hope, two, P. H. Hollon, Sarah Summers.

Scottsboro, one, L. C. Bailey.

Total, 21.

Time will not permit in this report to make acknowledgement of their work and the high esteem in which their memories are held by us. There is a glory in the kingdom for all, no matter how varied or numerous they are. God's temple rests on many pillars, God's garden has many flowers, God's music has many notes, God's sky has many stars, though differing from one another in glory. And those whose names are here recorded were strong pillars in His temple, rare flowers in His garden, high notes in His music, bright stars in His sky. But who can measure the influence of their lives or estimate the services they have rendered? We bow with becoming submission to Him, who doeth all things after the counsel of His own will, knowing that "All things work together for good to them that love the Lord." Respectfully submitted.

M. HILL, Chairman.

The Moderator called for report on Finance, which was read by R. C. Horton, as follows:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

We, your committee on Finance, beg leave to report money received for printing minutes from the several churches, as follows: Beech Grove, 80c.; Bridgeport, $1.00; Bethel, $2.10; Bethany, 75c.; Center Point, $1.50; Centennial, $1.00; Cave Spring, $1.00; Freedom, $1.47; Friendship, $2.50; Gurley, $1.00; Goose Pond, $1.20; Harmony, $2.00; Hollywood, $2.00; Larkinsville, $1.05; Mt. Nebo, $2.00: Mt. Zion, $1.00; Mt. Pisgah, $1.55; Mt. Moriah, $1.10; Mt. Ararat, $1.10; Mt. Tabor, 75c.; Mt. Carmel, 50c.; New Hope, $1.00; Scottsboro, $2.00; Ship of Zion——; Trenton, $1.00; Ebenezer, $1.00; Mountain Grove, ——; McCoy's Grove, ——. Total, $31 37.

R. C. HORTON,
S. R. CORN,
Committee.

On motion, a special collection was taken up for minutes and expenses for Clerk. Amount collected, $5.20 On motion, the Clerk was requested to have $25.00 worth of minutes printed and reserve the rest of the money for expenses and his work.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Moderator appointed the standing committees as follows:

Associational Work—A. P. Womack, James Inglis.

State Missions—Mike Hill, R. Howell.

Home Missions—W. H. Varnell, S. R. Corn.

Foreign Missions—J. R. Lamb, P. Brown.

Ministerial and Denominational Education—Virgil Bouldin, Charley Beard.

Woman's Work—Milton Roach, James Rorex.

Sunday School Work—Jno. T. Richards, W. R. Middleton.

Religious Literature—J. F. McCarrell, Crawford Howell.

Temperance—L. B. Irwin, R. M. Higginbotham.

Orphanage—John Roach, W. B. Campbell.

The Executive Committee was appointed as follows: P. Brown, Jno. T. Richards, Jno. H. Roach, R. Howell, W. L. Crawford, Milton Roach, J. R. Lamb, Mike Hill, J. J. Cunningham, C. Howell, A. Sisk, J. H. Fuller, Jos. Smalley, W. B. Campbell.

The Moderator requested the Clerk to call the names of the delegates enrolled and correct the same; forty-seven being present.

MINISTERIAL DELEGATES PRESENT.

P. Brown, D. S. Collins, W. L. Crawford, J. R. Lamb, L. B. Irwin, Jno. T. Richards, R. Howell, C. Howell, J. A. Eaves, R. M. Higginbotham, M. Hill, G. W. Morris, Thomas Caves, J. F. McCarrell, W. H. Varnell, T. K. Postell, A. Sisk; 17 being present. Total number present 64.

A change in the time of the meeting of the Association was brought before the body, and after considerable discussion upon the subject a motion was offered and seconded that this Association meet at its next annual meeting with the Mt. Ararat Church on Tuesday after the fourth Sunday in September 1900, instead of on Friday after the fourth Sunday in September, 1900. On motion, the Association voted by a rising vote, 11 in favor of the change and 50 opposed to any change in time.

RESOLUTIONS.

On motion the following resolutions were adopted:

Preamble and resolutions as read by Moderator:

Whereas, Among the many evils and heresies with which the Christian world has to contend, and overcome, modern Mormonism is by no means the least, and whereas, since the election of Brigham H. Roberts, (who is known to be living with at least three wives,) to the Congress of the United States, and whose title to his seat is now being contested, they have augmented their forces and redoubled efforts to infuse their baneful doctrines and poisonous practices into our quiet southern homes and mold public sentiment and influence legislation, so as to seat said Roberts, who hails from Utah, the hot-bed of Mormonism. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That we solemnly advise the churches of the Tennessee River Association, that we regard their so-called missionaries in the same light we do other religious tramps, only a thousand times more dangerous, and by the demoralizing influences they exert, they forfeit all claims to religious recognition, and to Christian hospitality; and under no circumstances, should they be allowed the use of our houses of worship in which to hold their services of mock worship.

Resolved, further, That we advise the members of the several churches that they religiously guard against their intrusion, or right into the family circle, thus giving them no opportunity to sow the seeds of their damnable heresies and pernicious practices in their sacred homes, where their very presence would be demoralizing and influence baneful.

P. Brown.

Resolved, That the thanks of this body is due and is hereby tendered to Moderator and Clerk of this Association for the faithful and efficient manner in which they have discharged their several duties.

W. L. Crawford.

Resolved, That this body urge the necessity of each church composing this body to organize a Ladies Aid Society at their earliest convenience.

W. L. Crawford.

Resolved, That the thanks of this body be and are hereby tendered to the church and to the people of this community for the kind and hospitable manner in which they have received and entertained us. W. L. CRAWFORD.

After attending to all the regular business, on motion the Association adjourned to meet with the Mt. Ararat Baptist Church on Friday after the Fourth Sunday in September, 1900, at 11 o'clock a. m. After a few remarks from the Moderator we all united in singing "God be with you till we meet again" and united in a hearty fraternal hand-shaking and then prayer by the Moderator, and the Association stood adjourned.

JNO. T. RICHARDS, Clerk. P. BROWN, Moderator.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF THE TENNESSEE RIVER ASSOCIATION.

DR.

To balance as shown by last report	$ 7 95
Received at Hollywood at Fifth Sunday Meeting	6 39
" at Larkinsville at Fifth Sunday Meeting	7 51
" April 30th, 1899, of Harmony Church	6 10
" of Mt. Nebo Church at Fifth Sunday Meeting	13 55
" of Treasurer of Friendship Church	3 00
" July 14, 1899, of Treasurer of Friendship Church	2 45
" June " " " " " " "	43 15
" Sept. 30, from Mt. Pisgah Church for Foreign Missions	11 44
Received Sept. 30th, 1899, from Mt. Pisgah Church for Home Missions	1 00
Received Sept. 30th, 1899, from Mt. Pisgah Church for Orphanage	1 00
Received Sept. 30th, 1899, from Center Point Church for Foreign Missions	2 00
Received Sept. 30th, 1899, from Bro. R. Devers for Foreign Missions	50
Received Sept. 30th, 1899, from Trenton Church for State Missions	1 05

Received Sept. 30th, 1899, from Bethany Church for Home Missions	1 10
Received Sept. 30th, 1899, from Harmony Church for Home Missions	2 00
Received Sept. 30th, 1899, from Bro. Frank Bell	25
" " " " " Trenton Church for Associational Missions	1 55
Received Sept. 30th, 1899, from Larkinsville Church for Associational Missions	3 71
Received Sept. 30th, 1899, from Bro. J. H. Fuller for Associational Missions	1 00
Received Sept. 30th, 1899, from Centre Point Church for Associational Missions	2 00
Received Sept. 30th, 1899, from Bethel Church for Associational Missions	3 00
Received Sept. 30th, 1899, from Mt. Zion Church for Associational Missions	5 00
Received Sept. 30th, 1899, at Sunday's collection at Association	37 46
Received Sept. 30, 1899, at Monday's Collection at Association	6 00
Total	$170 16

CREDIT

Paid Oct. 1899, Rev. T. K. Postell	$16 20
" March 8th, 1899, Rev. T. K. Postell by order of Executive Board	10 00
Paid April 30th, 1899, Rev. T. K. Postell by order of Executive board	6 10
Paid May 1st, 1899, Rev. T. K. Postell by order of Executive Board	13 55
Paid July 14th, 1899, Rev. M. Hill by order of Executive Board	7 00
Paid July 14th, 1899, Rev. J. A. Eaves by order of Executive Board	2 50
Paid Sept. 30th, 1899, Rev. D. S. Collins by order of Executive Board	12 00
Paid Sept. 30th, 1899, Rev. T. K. Postell	9 36
Paid Sept. 30th, 1899, Rev. M. Hill by order of Executive Board	13 00

Paid Feb. 1899, Rev. J. W. Sandlin	3 06
Paid June 4th, 1799, Rev. J. W. Sandlin	43 15
Paid July 14th, 1899, Rev. G. S. Anderson	2 45
Paid Oct. 14th, 1899, on note given for horse	31 79
Total	$170 16

Respectfully submitted.

MILTON ROACH, Treasurer,
Tenn. River Association.

With grateful hearts we look back over the past, and now we turn our faces to the future. To say that this session was a pleasant one but faintly expresses the character of the gathering. There was an enthusiasm from the beginning that characterized the session throughout as a business body. The attendance was good; a fine spirit prevailed throughout the entire session. There was perfect unity and harmony in all things from beginning to end. The brethren evidently felt that they were about their Master's business.

This Association can truly boast of as noble and faithful ministry as can be found in the State. They are, to a man, faithful to the church and all our organized work. A deep interest in the work of the denomination was manifested. The discussions were all spirited and interesting. There was not a personal or unkind cut made towards any person present or absent. With a band of as consecrated ministers as any Association can boast, with a host of devoted laymen to assist them and to hold up their hands, the Tennessee River Association bids fair to take front rank with any in the State. To God be all the praise and glory.

JNO. T. RICHARDS, Clerk.

P. BROWN, Moderator.

STATISTICS OF TENNESSEE RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1899.

CHURCH.	COUNTY.	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S POSTOFFICE.	Membership Last Reported.	Increase: Baptism	Increase: Letter	Increase: Restoration	Increase: Voucher	Decrease: Letter	Decrease: Exclusion	Decrease: Erasure	Decrease: Death	Present Membership	SUNDAY SCHOOLS. Officers and Teachers	Pupils	Superintendent's Name and Postoffice.	Preaching Sabbaths	Reports Prayer Meeting	Reports Revival
Bridgeport	Jackson County	J R Lamb	T G Richie	Bridgeport										32						
Beech Grove	" "	Alexander Sisk	G E Kilpatrick	Francisco	104		1			1			2	102						
Bethel	" "	W L Crawford	G T Womack	Kyles	98	1		1	1	8	5		1	91			Reports sunday School	2	yes	
Bethany	" "	Thomas Caves	Dib Bates											28				3	yes	yes
Center Point	" "	W L Crawford	J M McClendon	Scottsboro	50	5		2	2	1				54						yes
Cave Spring	" "	R Howell	Isaac M Sentell	Coffey's Store	37					1			1	35				1		
Centennial	" "	R Howell	W M Chandler	Coffey's Store	58	8		1		1	1			65				2		yes
Ebenezer	" "	J C Lambert	J D Griffin	Bryant										26				8		yes
Freedom	" "		Raymond Reid	Estill Fork	146	5				1			3	147						yes
Friendship	" "	W L Crawford	W R Middleton		123	2	2			5	5			158	10	100	J B Campbell, W W Roach, Fackler	1		yes
Gurley	Madison "		W F Roberts	Gurley	121	1	4			3	2		3	118	10	80	W F Roberts, Gurley		yes	
Goose Pond	Jackson "	M Hill	J L Walsh	Parks' Store	18					1	1			16						yes
Hollywood	" "	R M Higginbotham	J F McCarrell	Hollywood	49	25	5			1				76			Union Sunday School, Hollywood			yes
Harmony	" "	R Howell	Jno G Sanders	Mud Creek	50			1		1				50			B A Sanders, Mud Creek	3		
Larkinsville	" "		N S Cowart	Larkinsville	19								2	17	6	67	Union Sunday School, Larkinsville			
Mt. Nebo	" "		R C Horton	Hollytree	105					2			1	102	7	75	J P Cunningham, Hollytree			
Mt. Zion	" "	W L Crawford	C R Flowers	Section	55	8	4			2	1		2	68				3		yes
Mt. Pisgah	" "	C T Starkey	Jno T Richards	Pisgah	131	9	2	8	1	10			1	140	6	67	Jno T Richards, Pisgah	2		yes
Mt. Ararat	" "	W A Pigg	W P Culver	Limrock	36					1		1		34						
Mt. Moriah	" "	J F McCarrell	A J Evett	Nita	78	2	5		1	20				62	5	75	N D Lamb, Nita	5	yes	
Mt. Tabor	" "	Thomas Caves	J L Buckner	Fabius	33	17		2		3				49			Union Sunday School, Fabius	2	yes	yes
Mt. Carmel	" "													7				3		yes
McCoy's Grove	" "				18															
Mountain Grove	" "																			
New Hope	" "	R Howell	J F Terry	Bloomington	62					2	2		2	56				4		
Pleasant View	" "																			
Scottsboro	" "		W W Howard	Scottsboro	34	9	4	3	1				1	50			Virgil Bouldin, Scottsboro		yes	yes
Ship of Zion	" "																			
Trenton	" "	J R Lamb	L E Smith	Trenton	31	5	2		1	7				52			S H Summers, Trenton	5		
					1472	116	25	15	6	40	45		20	1605	44	465				

Note: I have made a careful examination of the letters, gone over them several times, to avoid any mistakes. I give the reports as I find them in yonr letters to the Association. The increase in membership, as reported, is 133. Brother Clerks, do not fail to give as full and accurate a record as can be obtained.--CLERK.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF THE TENNESSEE RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1899.

CHURCH.	MISSIONS.				EDUCATION			Orphan's Home	Minutes	HOME EXPENSES.			TOTAL	VALUE OF PROPERTY
	State	Home	Foreign	Association'l	Ministerial and Institute Work	College Buildings	Incidental			Pastor's Salary	Repairs and New Buildings	Poor, Fuel, Sunday Schools, etc.		
Bridgeport				$2 00					$1 00					
Beech Grove									80				$ 80	$ 600 00
Bethel				3 00					2 10	$ 50 00			55 10	500 00
Bethany		$1 10							75	6 40			8 25	
Center Point			$2 00	2 00					1 50	25 50			31 00	500 00
Cave Spring									1 00	17 00			18 00	800 00
Centennial									1 00	30 00			31 00	
Ebenezer									1 00	1 00			2 00	
Freedom								$10 00	1 47	55 50			66 97	500 00
Friendship				5 00	$2 50	$43 15			2 50	50 00		$22 00	125 15	400 00
Gurley	1 55	3 85	12 79		6 80	4 50		11 87	1 00	375 00	$97 26	58 00	572 62	2000 00
Goose Pond									1 20				1 20	
Hollywood				12 00					2 00				14 00	
Harmony		2 00		17 05					2 00	28 00	451 00	3 95	504 00	
Larkinsville				3 71					1 05				4 76	
Mt. Nebo				13 37					2 00	55 00		20 00	90 37	500 00
Mt. Zion		5 00							1 00	50 00			56 00	300 00
Mt. Pisgah		1 00	11 44					1 00	1 55	60 00		7 50	82 49	350 00
Mt. Ararat									1 10	11 05			12 15	500 00
Mt. Morish									1 10	6 75			7 85	150 00
Mt. Tabor			1 00						75	25 00			26 75	
McCoy's Grove														
Mt. Carmel				2 50	75				50				3 75	
Mountain Grove														
New Hope									1 00	25 00			26 00	
Pleasant View														
Scottsboro			15 00		54 00	10 00		25 75	2 00	100 00		25 00	231 75	1000 00
Ship of Zion														
Trenton		1 05							1 00	50 00			52 05	
	$1 55	$14 00	$52 23	$60 62	$64 05	$57 65		$48 62	$21 87	$1021 90	$548 26	$186 45	$2024 01	$8700 00

Note: The amount of money raised during the year, as reported, appears to be for Missions, $128.41, and the amounts for all other purposes, according to the reports of your letters, $1907 60. Total, with Sunday's collection at Association, $2073.41, an increase of $563. Brethren, be careful about this matter and give us all moneys paid out, all matters of interest.—CLERK.